

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 21, through page 2, line 7, as follows:

It is known that a pipe joint structure in which a distribution pipe (such as a distribution pipe for a high pressure pump or a distribution pipe for an injector) is joined to a common rail body J1 for accumulating high pressure fuel, as shown in Figs. 14 to 16 wherein analogous structures are depicted and labeled with common reference characters. In the pipe joint structure shown in Figs. 14 to 16, the common rail body J1 is provided with a conical shaped pressure receiving seat J2. A conical portion J4 formed at an axial end of a distribution pipe J3 (refer to Fig. 14 and Fig. 16) or a conical portion J6 formed at an axial end of a distribution pipe extension cylinder J5 (refer to Fig. 15) is pressed against the pressure receiving seat J2 of the common rail body J1. A contact surface between the pressure receiving seat J2 and the conical portion J4 or J6 constitutes a fluid tight sealing surface J7.

Please amend the paragraph at page 3, lines 17, through 27, as follows:

Furthermore, in the conventional structure in which ~~the~~ distribution pipe J3 or the distribution pipe extension cylinder J5 is inserted and positioned inside ~~the~~ screw threaded joint fitting J8, the larger size of ~~the~~ distributor pipe screw fastening nut J11 is required. This gives ~~inconvenient on~~ may cause inconvenience for installation to a vehicle. If a smaller size (for example, thread size is M12) of distributor pipe screw fastening nut J11 is used for ~~a purpose of~~ easier installation, thinner wall thickness of screw threaded joint fitting J8 is required, which may cause insufficient strength of ~~the~~ screw threaded joint fitting J8.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 17, through page 5, line 10, as follows:

To achieve the above object, a pipe joint structure is composed of a vessel, a joint fitting member, a joint member, a distribution pipe and a mounting nut. The vessel is provided at an outer circumference thereof with a first flat surface at a circumferential wall thereof with a through-hole ~~whose having~~ one end is opened to the first flat surface and ~~whose another end is~~ opened to an interior thereof. The joint fitting member ~~is provided in~~ has an interior thereof with ~~an insertion hole whose inner diameter is larger than the inner diameter of the through-hole and a~~ first screw thread at ~~one of an inner circumferential wall or of the insertion hole and an outer circumferential wall thereof with a first screw thread~~. This joint fitting member is bonded to the vessel in ~~such a manner so~~ that the first flat surface is positioned radially inside the insertion hole and surrounds an entire outer periphery of the through-hole opened to the first flat surface. The joint member is provided with an insertion portion having (a) a second flat surface formed at an ~~axial end thereof, and with~~ (b) a pipe connection portion having a conical pressure receiving seat formed at another ~~axial end thereof,~~ and (c) a pipe mounting screw thread at an outer circumference thereof. The insertion portion and the pipe connection portion are ~~provided through central parts thereof with a~~ connected by an internal fluid passage ~~whose with~~ one end is opened ~~to in~~ the second flat surface and ~~whose another end is~~ opened to the conical pressure receiving seat. The distribution pipe is provided at an end thereof with a conical portion. The mounting nut is fastened into the pipe mounting screw thread ~~in a state so~~ that the conical portion is pressed against the conical receiving seat.

Please amend the paragraph at page 5, lines 11 through 20, as follows:

In the pipe joint structure mentioned above, the joint member is further provided at a position inside the inner circumferential wall of the insertion hole ~~and or~~ a position outside the outer circumferential wall of the joint fitting member with a second screw thread screwed into the first screw thread so that the insertion portion is inserted ~~deep~~ sufficiently into the insertion hole ~~that. Accordingly, that~~ second flat surface is pressed ~~against and in~~ into fluid tight contact directly or indirectly with the first flat surface while in a state that the fluid passage communicates with the through-hole.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 26, through page 17, line 9, as follows:

The pipe connection portion 32 is provided at an outer circumference thereof with a pipe mounting screw thread 42 screwed into a pipe mounting female screw thread ~~41~~ 41a formed in an inner circumference of a mounting nut 41. Since the pipe mounting screw thread 42 is screwed into the pipe mounting female screw thread ~~41~~ 41a in a state that the mounting nut 41 abuts against a step portion 43 at a back of the conical portion 38, the conical portion 38 of the distribution pipe 6, 7 is pressed against and in contact with the conical pressure receiving seat 39 to form a fluid tight pipe sealing surface 40 therebetween.

Please amend the paragraph at page 18, lines 14 through 24, as follows:

(4) The joint fitting member 23 is provided in the interior thereof only with the fluid passage 34 and the distributor pipe J3 or the distribution pipe extension cylinder J5 (refer to Figs. 14 to 16), as disclosed in prior art, is not inserted into the interior of the joint fitting member 23.

Accordingly, a smaller outer diameter of the pipe connection portion 32 of the joint member 24, that is, a smaller size (for example, M12) of the pipe mounting screw thread ~~41~~41a can be employed so that the pipe joint structure is more compact, or strength of joint fitting member 23 may be sufficiently assured due to thicker wall thickness of the joint fitting member 23.

Please amend the paragraph at page 25, lines 2 through 13, as follows:

It is preferable that the orifice plate 61 is made of material (for example, ~~cupper~~copper) elastically or resiliently easily deformable upon application of relatively stronger force so as to fluid tightly seal between the first and second flat surfaces 27 and 36. After the orifice plate 61 is assembled in the interior of the joint fitting member 23 bonded to the common rail body 20, the second screw thread 35 of the joint member 24 is screwed into the first screw thread 29 of the joint fitting member 23 so that the second flat surface 36 is pressed via the orifice plate 61 against the first flat surface 27. Accordingly, the orifice plate 61 reliably seals between the joint member 24 and the common rail body 20.

Please amend the first paragraph at page 27, lines 1 and 2, as follows:

A ninth embodiment is described with references to Figs. 13A and ~~14B~~13B.

Please amend the second paragraph at page 27, lines 3 through 15, as follows:

According to the ninth embodiment, the joint member 24 is provided on an outer circumference thereof with a plurality of wrench grooves 65 spaced circumferentially at given intervals and extending axially so as to cross the pipe mounting screw thread 42, as shown in Figs 13A and 13B. BY rotating a groove engagement wrench (~~not shown~~)-100 having a plurality

of projections each of which is inserted into and engaged with each of the wrench grooves 65, rotational moment is applied to the joint member 24, the joint member 24 can be rigidly screw fastened to the joint fitting member 23 without providing the hexagonal bolt head portion 33 formed at the outer circumference of the joint member 24 between the second screw thread 35 and the pipe mounting screw thread 42.